

MEMOIRS
OF
COUNT GRAMMONT,

BY
ANTHONY HAMILTON.

A NEW EDITION.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED, A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF COUNT HAMILTON, AND A TRANSLATION OF THE EPISTLE
TO COUNT GRAMMONT.

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MEMOIRS

OF

COUNT GRAMMONT.

CHAPTER I.

“SIR,” said the Chevalier de Grammont,
“the Prince de Condé besieged Lerida: the
“place in itself was nothing; but Don Gre-
“gorio Brice, who defended it, was some-
“thing. He was one of those Spaniards of
“the old stamp, as valiant as the Cid, as
“proud as all the Guzmans put together,
“and more gallant than all the Abencerrages
“of Grenada: he suffered us to make our
“first approaches to the place, without the
“least molestation. The Marshal de Gram-
“mont, whose maxim it was, that a gover-
“nor who at first makes a great blustering,

“ and burns his suburbs in order to make a
“ noble defence, generally makes a very bad
“ one, looked upon Gregorio de Brice’s po-
“ liteness as no good omen for us ; but the
“ prince, covered with glory, and elated
“ with the campaigns of Rocroy, Norlinguen,
“ and Fribourg, to insult both the place and
“ the governor, ordered the trenches to be
“ mounted at noon-day by his own regiment,
“ at the head of which marched four and
“ twenty fiddlers, as if it had been to a wed-
“ ding.

“ Night approaching we were all in high
“ spirits : our violins were playing soft airs,
“ and we were comfortably regaling our-
“ selves : God knows how we were joking
“ about the poor governor and his fortifi-
“ cations, both of which we promised our-
“ selves to take in less than twenty-four
“ hours. This was going on in the trenches,
“ when we heard an ominous cry from the
“ ramparts, repeated two or three times of,
“ ‘ Alerte on the walls !’ This cry was follow-
“ ed by a discharge of cannon and musket-
“ ry, and this discharge by a vigorous sally,

“ which, after having filled up the trenches,
“ pursued us as far as our grand guard.

“ The next day Gregorio Brice sent by a
“ trumpet a present of ice and fruit to the
“ Prince de Condé, humbly beseeching his
“ highness to excuse his not returning the se-
“ renade which he was pleased to favour him
“ with, as unfortunately he had no violins ;
“ but that if the music of last night was not
“ disagreeable to him, he would endeavour
“ to continue it as long as he did him the
“ honour to remain before the place. The
“ Spaniard was as good as his word ; and as
“ soon as we heard, ‘ Alerte on the walls,’
“ we were sure of a sally, that cleared our
“ trenches, destroyed our works, and killed
“ the best of our officers and soldiers. The
“ prince was so piqued at it, that, contrary
“ to the opinion of the general officers, he
“ obstinately persisted in carrying on a siege,
“ which was like to ruin his army, and which
“ he was at last forced to quit in a hurry.

“ As our troops were retiring, Don Gre-
“ gorio, far from giving himself those airs
“ which governors generally do on such oc-

“casions, made no other sally, than sending a
“respectful compliment to the prince. Signor
“Brice set out not long after for Madrid, to
“give an account of his conduct, and to re-
“ceive the recompence he had merited. Your
“majesty perhaps will be desirous to know
“what reception poor Brice met with, after
“having performed the most brilliant action
“the Spaniards could boast of in all the war
“—he was confined by the inquisition.”

How! said the Queen Dowager, confined by the inquisition for his services! Not altogether for his services, said the Chevalier; but without any regard to his services, he was treated in the manner I have mentioned, for a little affair of gallantry, which I shall relate to the King presently.

“The campaign of Catalonia being thus
“ended, we were returning home, not over-
“loaded with laurels; but as the Prince de
“Condé had laid up a great store on former
“occasions, and as he had still great projects
“in his head, he soon forgot this trifling
“misfortune: We did nothing but joke with
“one another during the march, and the

“ prince was the first to ridicule the siege :
“ We made some of those rhymes on Lerida,
“ which were sung all over France, in order
“ to prevent others more severe ; however,
“ we gained nothing by it, for notwithstanding
“ ing we treated ourselves freely in our own
“ ballads, others were composed in Paris, in
“ which we were ten times more severely
“ handled. At last we arrived at Perpignan
“ upon a holy-day : a company of Catalans,
“ who were dancing in the middle of the
“ street, out of respect to the prince came to
“ dance under his windows : Monsieur Pous-
“ satin, in a little black jacket, danced in the
“ middle of this company as if he was really
“ mad : I immediately recognized him for
“ my countryman, from his manner of skip-
“ ping and frisking about : the prince was
“ charmed with his humour and activity.
“ After the dance, I sent for him, and en-
“ quired who he was : a poor priest, at your
“ service, my lord, said he : my name is Pous-
“ satin, and Bearn is my native country : I
“ was going into Catalonia to serve in the
“ infantry, for, God be praised, I can march

“ very well on foot; but since the war is
“ happily concluded, if your lordship pleases
“ to take me into your service, I would fol-
“ low you every where, and serve you faith-
“ fully. Monsieur Poussatin, said I, my
“ lordship has no great occasion for a chap-
“ lain; but since you are so well disposed
“ towards me, I will take you into my ser-
“ vice.

“ The Prince de Condé, who was present
“ at this conversation, was overjoyed at my
“ having a chaplain. As poor Poussatin was
“ in a very tattered condition, I had no time
“ to provide him with a proper habit at Per-
“ pignan; but giving him a spare livery of
“ one of the Marshal de Grammont’s ser-
“ vants, I made him get up behind the
“ prince’s coach, who was like to die with
“ laughing every time he looked at poor
“ Poussatin’s uncanonical mien in a yellow
“ livery.

“ As soon as we arrived at Paris, the story
“ was told to the Queen, who at first ex-
“ pressed some surprise at it: this, however,
“ did not prevent her from wishing to see

“ my chaplain dance ; for in Spain it is not
“ altogether so strange to see ecclesiastics
“ dance, as to see them in livery.

“ Poussatin performed wonders before the
“ Queen ; but as he danced with great
“ sprightliness, she could not bear the odour
“ which his violent motions diffused around
“ her room : the ladies likewise began to
“ pray for relief ; for he had almost entirely
“ got the better of all the perfumes and es-
“ sences with which they were fortified :
“ Poussatin, nevertheless, retired with a
“ great deal of applause, and some louis d’or.

“ Some time afterwards I procured a small
“ benefice in the country for my chaplain,
“ and I have since been informed that Pous-
“ satin preached with the same ease in his
“ village, as he danced at the wedding of
“ his parishioners.”

The King was exceedingly diverted at Poussatin’s history ; and the Queen was not much hurt at his having been put in livery : the treatment of Gregorio Brice offended her far more ; and being desirous to justify the court of Spain, with respect to so cruel a pro-

ceeding: "Chevalier de Grammont," said she, "what heresy did Governor Brice wish to introduce into the state? What crime against religion was he charged with, that he was confined in the inquisition?" "Madam," said he, "the history is not very proper to be related before your majesty: it was a little amorous frolic, ill-timed indeed; but poor Brice meant no harm: a school-boy would not have been whipped for such a fault, in the most severe college in France; as it was only for giving some proofs of his affection to a young Spanish fair one, who had fixed her eyes upon him on a solemn occasion."

The King desired to know the particulars of the adventure; and the Chevalier gratified his curiosity, as soon as the Queen and the rest of the court were out of hearing. It was very entertaining to hear him tell a story; but it was very disagreeable to differ with him, either in competition, or in raillery: it is true that at that time there were few persons at the English court who had merited his indignation: Russell was sometimes the

subject of his ridicule, but he treated him far more tenderly than he usually did a rival.

This Russell was one of the most furious dancers in all England, I mean, for country dances : he had a collection of two or three hundred in print, all of which he danced at sight ; and to prove that he was not an old man, he sometimes danced until he was almost exhausted : his mode of dancing was like that of his clothes, for they both had been out of fashion full twenty years.

The Chevalier de Grammont was very sensible that he was very much in love ; but though he saw very well that it only rendered him more ridiculous, yet he felt some concern at the information he received, of his intention of demanding Miss Hamilton in marriage ; but his concern did not last long.

Russell, being upon the point of setting out on a journey, thought it was proper to acquaint his mistress with his intentions before his departure. The Chevalier de Grammont was a great obstacle to the interview, he was desirous of obtaining of her ; but being one day sent for, to go and play at la-

dy Castlemaine's, Russell seized the opportunity, and addressing himself to Miss Hamilton, with less embarrassment than is usual on such occasions, he made his declaration to her in the following manner: "I am brother to the Earl of Bedford: I command the regiment of guards: I have three thousand pounds a year, and fifteen thousand in ready money: all which, Madam, I come to present to you, along with my person. One present, I agree, is not worth much without the other, and therefore I put them together. I am advised to go to some of the watering places for something of an asthma, which, in all probability, cannot continue much longer, as I have had it for these last twenty years: if you look upon me as worthy of the happiness of belonging to you, I shall propose it to your father, to whom I did not think it right to apply, before I was acquainted with your sentiments: my nephew William is at present entirely ignorant of my intention; but I believe he will not be sorry for it, though he will thereby see

“ himself deprived of a pretty considerable
“ estate ; for he has great affection for me,
“ and besides, he has a pleasure in paying
“ his respects to you since he has perceived
“ my attachment. I am very much pleased
“ that he should make his court to me, by
“ the attention he pays to you ; for he did
“ nothing but squander his money upon that
“ coquet Middleton, while at present he is
“ at no expence, though he frequents the
“ best company in England.”

Miss Hamilton had much difficulty to suppress her laughter during this harangue : however, she told him, that she thought herself much honoured by his intentions towards her, and still more obliged to him for consulting her, before he made any overtures to her relations : “ It will be time enough,” said she,
“ to speak to them upon the subject at your
“ return from the waters ; for I do not think
“ it is at all probable that they will dispose
“ of me before that time, and in case they
“ should be urgent in their solicitations, your
“ nephew William will take care to acquaint
“ you ; therefore, you may set out whenever

“ you think proper ; but take care not to
“ injure your health by returning too soon.”

The Chevalier de Grammont, having heard the particulars of this conversation, endeavoured as well as he could to be entertained with it ; though there were certain circumstances in the declaration, notwithstanding the absurdity of others, which did not fail to give him some uneasiness. Upon the whole, he was not sorry for Russell’s departure ; and, assuming an air of pleasantry, he went to relate to the King, how Heaven had favoured him, by delivering him from so dangerous a rival. “ He is gone then, Chevalier,” said the King. “ Certainly, sir,” said he ; “ I had the
“ honour to see him embark in a coach, with
“ his asthma, and country equipage, his per-
“ ruque á calotte, neatly tied with a yellow
“ ribband, and his old-fashioned hat covered
“ with oil skin, which becomes him uncom-
“ monly well : therefore, I have only to con-
“ tend with William Russell, whom he leaves
“ as his resident with Miss Hamilton ; and, as
“ for him, I neither fear him upon his own
“ account, nor his uncle’s ; he is too much in

“ love himself, to pay attention to the interests
“ of another ; and as he has but one method
“ of promoting his own, which is by sacri-
“ ficing the portrait, or some love-letters of
“ Mrs Middleton, I have it easily in my
“ power to counteract him in such kind of
“ favours, though I confess I have pretty
“ well paid for them.

“ Since your affairs proceed so prosperously
“ with the Russells,” said the King, “ I will
“ acquaint you that you are delivered from
“ another rival, much more dangerous, if he
“ were not already married : my brother has
“ lately fallen in love with Lady Chester-
“ field.” “ How many blessings at once !”
exclaimed the Chevalier de Grammont : “ I
“ have so many obligations to him for this
“ inconstancy, that I would willingly serve
“ him in his new amour, if Hamilton was not
“ his rival : nor will your majesty take it ill,
“ if I promote the interests of my mistress’s
“ brother, rather than those of your majesty’s
“ brother.” “ Hamilton, however,” said the
King, “ does not stand so much in need of
“ assistance, in affairs of this nature, as the